

# Family Violence

*Publicly funded services to address Family Violence are described in Emergency/Temporary Housing, Juvenile Rehabilitation Services, and School-Based Health Centers. In addition, the DOH Injury Program addresses Family Violence.*

## **Key Findings:**

- Family violence, which includes child abuse and intimate partner violence, is prevalent, but is often difficult to measure. In this section, a variety of data sources are relied upon.
- Abuse can include physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse.
- While existing data are helpful in understanding the prevalence of abuse, more data are needed to understand health disparities.

## **Child Abuse**

### **Child Protective Services**

- Only a portion of child abuse is reported to Child Protective Services (CPS). In 2004, there were 45,326 accepted referrals to Washington CPS for child abuse and neglect in Washington.<sup>1</sup>

### **History of Child Abuse**

- Females are over twice as likely as males to report a history of childhood sexual abuse. In 2004, about 20% of Washington women (ages 18 and over) and 8% of men reported a history of sexual abuse as a child. Males and females have an approximately equal likelihood to report childhood physical abuse. About 12% of men and 10% of women reported physical abuse as a child.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2002, about 16-18% of Washington youth in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades reported being physically abused by an adult at some point in their lives.<sup>3</sup>

**Family Violence:** Violence or abuse of any type, perpetrated by one family member against another family member. Includes both child abuse and intimate partner violence.

## **Intimate Partner Violence**

### **Crime in Washington**

- In 2004, 39,025 domestic violence offenses (including 61 homicides) were reported in Washington State. This accounted for about 10% of all crimes reported in the state not counting the additional 13,025 reported violations of protection orders.<sup>4</sup>
- In cases of murder and non-negligent homicide, where the relationship of victim to offender was reported, 24% were within the family.<sup>4</sup>
- Females were significantly more likely to report that before they were 18 years old, someone had touched them sexually place or made them touch someone sexually when they did not want to.<sup>5</sup>

### **Partner Threatened or Physically Hurt**

- In 2004, about 6% of Washington 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 9% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and 10% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported a boyfriend or girlfriend had limited their activities or made them feel unsafe. (Data not shown)<sup>3</sup>
- In 2004, about 6-8% of Washington 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported a boyfriend or girlfriend had hit or physically hurt them in the past 12 months. Males were more likely to report being hurt than females.<sup>3</sup>
- Nationally, violence against women occurs in 20% of dating couples.<sup>6</sup>
- Nationally, an average of 28% of high school and college students experience dating violence at some point.<sup>7</sup>

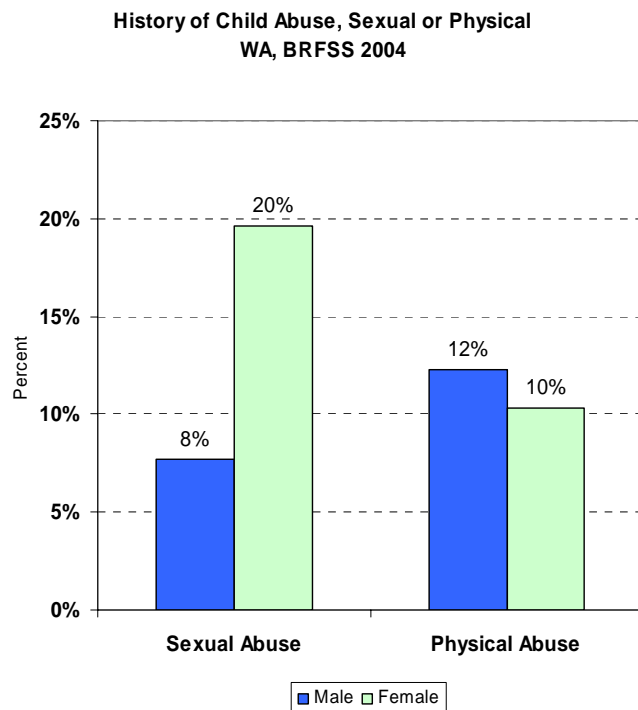
### **Pregnancy Violence**

- In 2003, the percentage of pregnant Washington women reporting physical abuse by their husband or partner remained approximately 5% before and during pregnancy (5% before, 4% during, 4% after).<sup>8</sup>
- Physical abuse in Washington State before, during, and after pregnancy was more likely to be reported by younger women, Medicaid recipients, women with less than 12 years of education, and Native Americans.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2003, 61% of pregnant Washington women reported being asked by their provider about domestic violence during pregnancy.<sup>8</sup>
- Younger women, less educated women, Hispanic women and women on Medicaid were significantly more likely to report a health care worker had asked them if someone was hurting them emotionally or physically.<sup>8</sup>

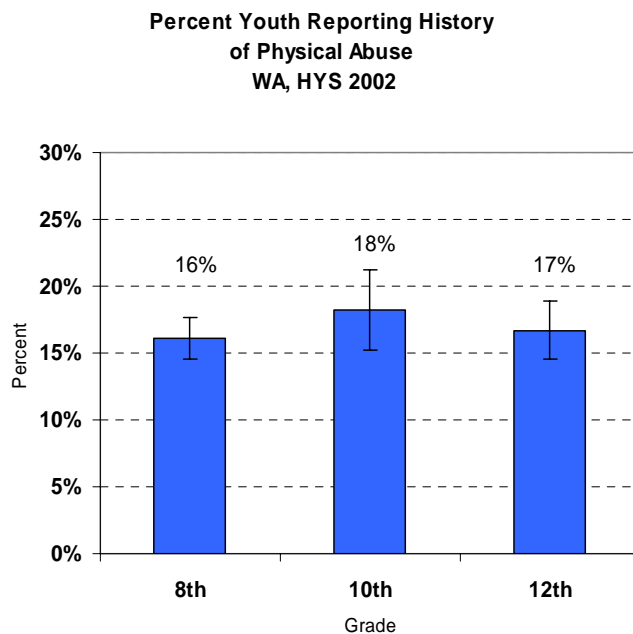
### **Healthy People 2010<sup>9</sup>**

- The Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the rate of physical assault by current or former intimate partners to 3.3 physical assaults per 1,000 persons ages 12 years and older.
- The Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce maltreatment to 10.3 per 1,000 children under age 18 years, and maltreatment fatalities of children to 1.4 per 1,000 children under the age of 18 years.

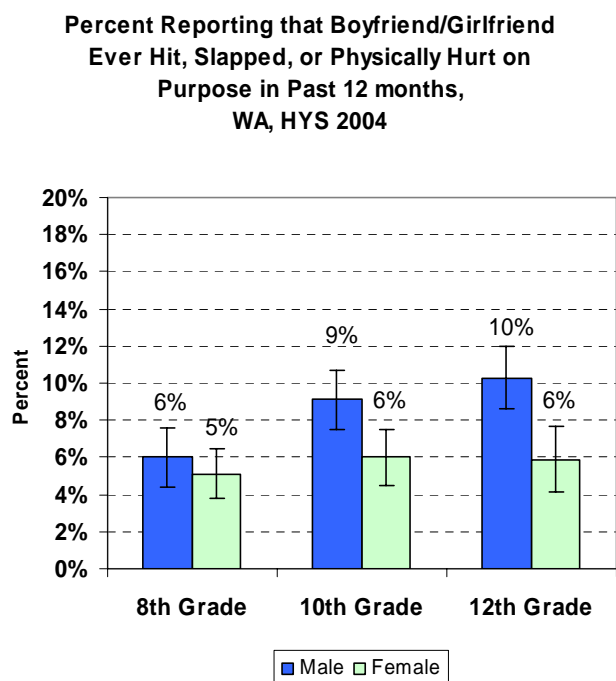
## History of Child Abuse: Adult Reported <sup>2</sup>



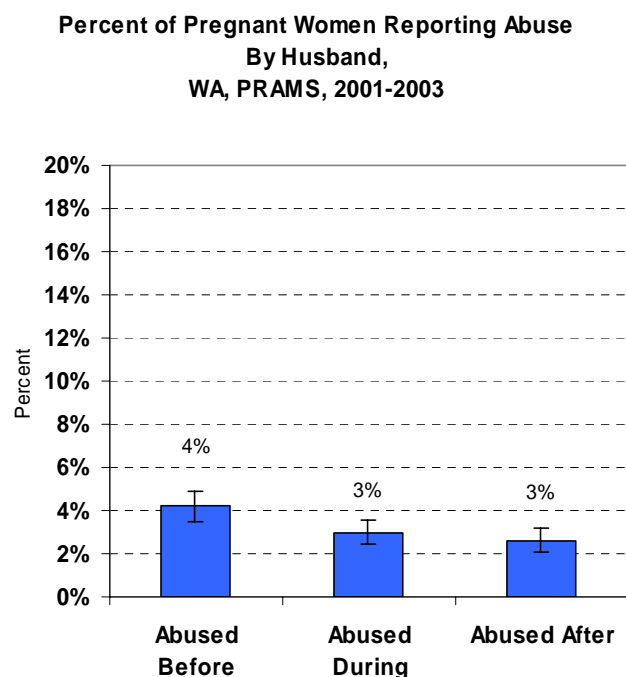
## History of Child Abuse: Youth Reported <sup>3</sup>



## Intimate Partner Violence: Youth Reported <sup>3</sup>

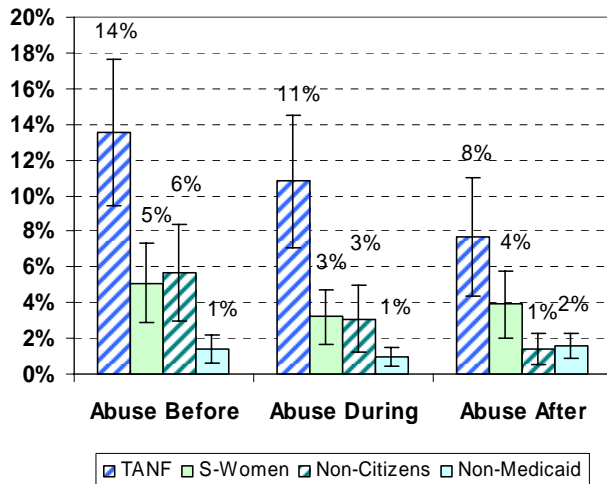


## Intimate Partner Violence: Pregnant Women <sup>8</sup>



## Intimate Partner Violence: Pregnant Women by Medicaid<sup>8,a</sup>

Percent of Pregnant Women Reporting  
Abuse by Husband, by Medicaid Status\*  
WA, PRAMS, 2001-2003



\* Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. They are divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status): **S-Women** - those women who are citizens and eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL, **TANF** - those women who are very low income (generally < 50% FPL) and receive cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid, and **Non-Citizens** - those women who are not citizens and are eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL. Non-citizens are not eligible for TANF although their incomes are often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups have incomes below most Non-Medicaid women.

### Data Sources

1. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, CAMIS Referral Files, April 2005.
2. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Washington State Department of Health, 2004.
3. Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2002 and 2004. Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Health, Department of Social and Health Services, and Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development and RMC Research Corporation.
4. Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs: *Crime in Washington 2004 Report*, [http://www.waspc.org/wucrwiwr/CIW\\_2004.pdf](http://www.waspc.org/wucrwiwr/CIW_2004.pdf)
5. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Washington State Department of Health, 1999-2000.
6. American Psychology Association; Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 10.
7. Brustin, S., Legal Response to Teen Dating Violence, *Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 29, no. 2, 331 (Summer 1995) (citing Levy, In Love & In Danger: a teen's guide to breaking free of an abusive relationship, 1993).
8. Washington Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Washington State Department of Health, 2001-2003.
9. Department of Health and Human Services (US). *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office; November 2000.

### Endnotes

- a. The source for the Medicaid designations used is the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services First Steps Database.
- b. Significance is based on 95% Confidence Intervals
- c. AIAN – American Indian/Alaska Native
- d. API – Asian or Pacific Islander